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GRADUATE COUNCIL

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PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

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REPORT

OF THE

STUDENT BUREAU OF SELF-HELP

OCTOBER 1st, 1912

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Presented by

Mr. V. S. Collins  
Cl. of '92 .

PRINCETON, N. J., October 31, 1912.

The following report of the Committee on Undergraduate Activities of the Council, which has in charge the Student Bureau of Self-Help, was read and approved at a meeting of the Council held October 4th, 1912.

In the resolution authorizing the publication of this report, the Council requested the Secretary to call to the attention of the Alumni not only the excellent work that has been done by the Bureau during the past year, but to request any alumnus who has it within his power to render assistance to the Bureau, to do so by sending such work to Princeton as can be done by the students, such as proof-reading, comparing, checking accounts, etc.; or by employing students during the summer months. This latter is most important, for if a student can during the summer months support himself and earn money to carry him through the whole or a part of the following College year, it will be a relief to the Bureau, which is much restricted in securing employment on account of the few business interests at Princeton.


For further information with regard to the Bureau, its work, etc., please address Mr. H. W. Buxton, Manager of the Student Bureau of Self-Help, Princeton, New Jersey.

H. G. MURRAY,  
Secretary.

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REPORT OF THE STUDENT BUREAU OF SELF-HELP CON-  
DUCTED BY THE GRADUATE COUNCIL OF PRINCE-  
TON UNIVERSITY AT PRINCETON, N. J.,  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
October 1, 1912.

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This Department was officially opened August 1st 1911 when H. W. Buxton '94 took charge of the work, and it was located temporarily in the office of the Secretary of the Graduate Council.

The first month was occupied in planning the work and canvassing for new agencies and other opportunities not already covered by students. On September 20th, 1911 College opened, and the Secretary spent this entire week in the office registering all the students who applied for assistance. Blanks had been prepared and each student was required to furnish the following information:

Name  
Address  
Prepared at  
Has been employed as  
Prefers to do  
Amount of funds available  
Will need  
Outside assistance

This gave full information of each man's needs and capabilities.

A set of books was kept in the office in which each man was listed and a strict account was kept of his work and the amount of compensation received by him. The Secretary followed up each job, by being in communication with the employer and finding out whether the students' work was satisfactory. The students know that this is being done and the result has been most satisfactory.

The Committee on Dining Halls coöperated most heartily with the Secretary of the Bureau in the matter of securing reductions of board, and in finding more positions at the Dining Halls that the students could fill.

It became evident very soon that the student body was in hearty accord with the work of the Bureau, and we received assurance of support from the Senior Council, the Editors of the Daily Princetonian, and the leading men of all classes.

During the year we had registered in the Department, 167 men, who either partly or entirely supported themselves during the College course. A very small percentage of these men were without any means; 47 men had less than \$200 each. The following table may be of interest in this regard:

1 man had \$14	4 men had \$50
1 " 20	1 " 60
1 " 25	3 " 75
1 " 30	15 " 100
1 " 40	7 between 100 and \$200
	12 200

The variety of the labor in which men were employed is very interesting. It covers almost every available line of work. We will mention first the well-known lines of College employment, such as newspaper reporting, tutoring, acting as monitors in class-rooms and chapel, students' pressing club, students' express and the many selling agencies for all manner of articles. Then we placed men in such jobs as taking care of furnaces, shovelling snow, washing windows, cutting grass, gardening, potting plants in the fall, teaching boys to skate. We were called upon to supply men to stay in homes at night while the whole family was out, handling the traps at the gun club, waiting on tables, inventorying household goods, delivering invitations. Two men were employed as bookkeepers, one man as clerk in a grocery store, some in delivering newspapers and magazines, distributing samples and for several cigarette firms, husking corn, selling programs for the Triangle Club and the football and baseball games, ushers and gatemen at the 'Varsity Field, catalogue work in the Library, wheeling an invalid's chair, selling chocolate and sandwiches on the campus at night, taking care of tennis courts, and nine very competent stenographers obtained more or less employment and many students obtained work on the farm.

The Secretary has endeavored to spend two days each week at the office and to be in his room in West College three evenings each week from 7.30 to 9.00 o'clock, thus making it possible for students to reach him five days each week. The evening hours have worked out very satisfactorily as the men calling at that time are on a very informal basis, often from fourteen to twenty men dropping in during the evening. This lightens the consultation work in the office and brings the Secretary on a very intimate footing, the conversation running from football to politics and religion.

In reviewing the year's work we point with satisfaction to the fact that the sum of \$17,560.63 has passed directly into the students hands through the activity of this Department, and to the fact that not one man left Princeton during the year because he was without funds, although we do not mean by this that these men had all they needed, as many of them had not nearly enough to be comfortable, but they managed with the assistance of the Bureau to pull through; that in the mid-year only one man on our list failed, and he entered with three conditions, and one man failed in June.

It is a rather curious fact that by far the greater number of men registered with this Bureau were from the Sophomore and Freshman classes, there being but a very small percentage of upper classmen officially registered, although a good many upper classmen were carrying on some active line of work. The only reason we can suggest for this condition is that these men in the upper classes all had their work in hand before this Department was opened.

In the fall it was discovered that many of the men registered with this Department were not able to attend the football games at the 'Varsity field as they were unable to pay for their admission tickets. This matter was brought to the attention of the Athletic Treasurer, and he immediately arranged with the Secretary of this Bureau to furnish enough tickets free of charge to admit all students registered with the Department who could not afford to pay their way into the games.

In the spring the matter of taking charge of the gates and ushering on the 'Varsity field was taken up with the Athletic Treasurer, and the

experiment was made of having this Department supply men as ticket takers and ushers, with the result that we handled this work through the entire season, including the Yale game at Commencement to the entire satisfaction of the Athletic Committee, and the Department will in future attend to these matters at the University Field. This has been a large saving to the Athletic Association, and enabled many men to follow their team who would otherwise have been unable to do their part as Princeton men toward helping their teams to victory.

The idea was conceived in the winter of opening a Students' Display Room where any student agent who had a line of samples to show could lay out his goods. A room was secured on the first floor of the Administration Building and was opened two days each week. We had displayed there lines of haberdashery—shoes—stationery—lamps—typewriters, bicycles and posters. The room was opened at twelve noon, and kept open until 9 P. M., the agents dividing up their time to fit into recitations and meal hours. The sales were quite large and the idea worked out very satisfactorily. In one day \$18 worth of haberdashery was sold and five pair of shoes besides other lines of goods.

Early in the spring the matter of using some of the University property for a farm where some of our students could work during the summer was taken up by this Department. The University authorities gave us the use of about thirty acres of land and we found no difficulty in finding fifteen students who were anxious to take up this work for the summer. In fact we rejected, after this number had been reached, more men than we employed. We found the suggestion that the Honor System be used here, met with hearty approval, and in consequence these men kept their own time. Mr. C. Irving Place 1912, was employed as Superintendent, and he has given entire satisfaction. Arrangements were made with the College authorities so that these men were allowed to live in University Hall rent free, during the summer vacation and through the coöperation of Mr. Gibbons, Superintendent of the Dining Halls, they were allowed to use one of the small dining rooms and a gas stove, the boys paying for the gas and any broken dishes. They employed a cook and one of the number did the buying. They obtained their board under these arrangements for \$4.50 per week.

#### LIST OF VEGETABLES PRODUCED BY THE UNIVERSITY FARM, SEASON OF 1912.

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On the farm we have grown:

LIMA BEANS  
STRING BEANS  
FIELD BEANS  
PARSNIP  
TURNIP  
CARROT  
BEET  
RADISHES  
POTATOES

TOMATOES  
EGG PLANT  
PEPPERS  
PUMPKIN  
SWEET CORN  
CELERY  
ONIONS  
CABBAGE  
CAULIFLOWER

LETTUCE.

Many of these students had never before done any farm work and were very green at first, but learned quickly and all have done very satisfactory work.

As the crops began to be ready for market it became evident that



we would suffer a severe loss in some of our vegetables, as the Princeton market in summer is overstocked with fresh vegetables and prices are very low. The Committee decided to equip a small canning factory on the farm and can whatever vegetables we could not sell at a satisfactory price. This work is being satisfactorily handled and we are putting up every day vegetables in glass jars which we are willing to have compared with any cannery output. This allows us to employ more men, and the Secretary believes it is the solution of the farm problem, for with a cannery we can run a farm at its greatest efficiency and not have to consider the immediate market for our product.

Through the coöperation of the University Store, it has been arranged that any needy student may by securing an order from the Secretary and presenting it at the Store, buy all books required for his studies at cost. This is one of the best things that the Department has as yet been able to accomplish.

The human side of the student has been evidenced many times during the year. Any statement that the Princeton man, who has to assist himself while pursuing his college career, loses standing in any way among his fellows, is absolutely false. The following story is interesting in this regard:

One man, a Senior, who needed assistance and who had a proposition that necessitated canvassing the campus in a given time and assured good results, was taken sick, and sent a note to the Secretary that he would be unable to do the work, and asked to have some other man assigned to the job. This, of course, meant sacrificing his financial interest in the matter. The Secretary one evening was speaking of this to a member of the Senior Class, a man well supplied with this world's goods, and expressed his regret that the boy should lose the money. The Senior, after a few moments thought offered to do the work himself to help the sick man, making the stipulation, however, that number one should never know who had done the work. The work was done in this manner and the sick man's interests were protected. This is only one instance of many that have come to the attention of the Secretary, showing in what high regard the student who works is held by the men of the College.

One student had secured through the Bureau two furnaces to care for at \$6.00 per month. Later this man discovered that a fellow student was really in extreme straits financially. He called upon the Secretary and asked to have one of his furnaces assigned to the other man to help him out of his trouble.

Respectfully,

JAS. E. BATHGATE, JR., '94, Chairman

P. A. ROLLINS '89

GEO. C. FRASER '93

JNO. LARKIN '82

W. W. PHILLIPS '95

WM. B. REED, JR., '96

H. L. MILLS '04

A. C. STUDER '08

W. M. WILKINS '10

JOSEPH W. EWING '12

} Committee.